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G4A AFN

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(54) Abstract Title
Distribution system with content replication

(57) A video distribution system is provided for delivering a number of video streams to a plurality of users. The system employs a distributed architecture in which a number of local servers are provided for servicing user requests received from users in the proximity of the respective local server. In dealing with the user request, the local server determines if the user request should fail, should proceed or should be redirected to another server. The redirection is preferably controlled using the real time streaming protocol (RTSP) used to control the streaming of video files and the like over the Internet. Network cost and server busyness are used to decide which server the request should be redirected to. The location of content on the servers may be dynamically changed in dependence upon request history. A management server 1 controls this, as well as the location of content replicas.

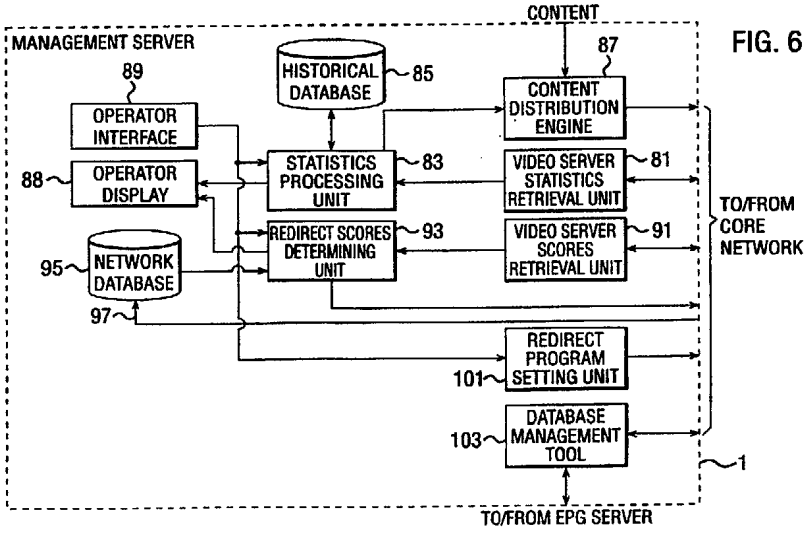

FIG. 6

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